

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1640

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SCUL, PINT, XX, CU, NO
SUBJECT: WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL IN HAVANA

REF: STATE 84164

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL IN HAVANA WITH KARL JOHAN SVERDRUP, SECRETARY. NORWEGIAN YOUTH COUNCIL (NIU) ON APR 5. SVERDRUP SAID THERE WOULD BE NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE FESTIVAL, BUT THAT NIU WOULD NOT BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED. NORWEGIAN GROUP WILL BE HEADED BY RAGNAR ERIKSON, CHAIRMAN, YOUNG COMMUNISTS, AND CHAIRMAN, NORWEGIAN FESTIVAL COMMITTEE. EMBOFF DISCUSSED FESTIVAL ALONG LINES REFTEL WITH SVERDRUP, WHO AGREED COMPLETELY WITH OUR VIEW OF CONFERENCE AS BLOC PROPAGANDA HIGH JINKS.

2. SVERDRUP REPORTED THAT NIU WOULD NOT TAKE PART AS AN ORGANIZATION IN PREPARING NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION. NIU DOES NOT TAKE PART IN ANY MEETINGS OR ACTIVITIES UNLESS IT HAS THE BROAD AGREEMENT OF NIU'S 100-ODD CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS. OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF NIU GROUPS ARE OPPOSED TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE HAVANA MEETING, SVERDRUP ADDED.

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3. AT PRESENT ONLY FIVE YOUTH BODIES WITHIN NIU PLAN TO PARTICIPATE AT HAVANA INCLUDING YOUNG COMMUNISTS, LEFT SOCIALIST YOUTH, LABOR PARTY YOUTH (AUF), NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS, AND LIBERAL PARTY YOUTH (VENSTRE). THE FIVE HAVE FORMED A NORWEGIAN FESTIVAL COMMITTEE TO PLAN NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION AND SELECT DELEGATES FOR THE HAVANA EVENT. YOUNG COMMUNIST CHAIRMAN RAGNAR ERIKSON

IS CHAIRMAN OF THE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE, AND RAGNAR GURAN,
MEMBER OF AUF CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF NIU,
IS VICE CHAIRMAN.

4. HAVANA FESTIVAL HAS ATTRACTED NO PUBLIC ATTENTION IN
NORWAY SO FAR. PARTICIPATION BY YOUNG COMMUNISTS, LEFT
SOCIALIST YOUTH, AND NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS IS NO
SURPRISE TO US. THESE GROUPS DO NOT REPRESENT AN AUDIENCE THAT WE
CAN APPEAL TO ON BASIS OF REFTEL. PRESENCE OF LABOR PARTY
AND LIBERAL PARTY YOUTH GROUPS IN FESTIVAL COMMITTEE WAS
EXPLAINED TO EMBASSY BY OFFICIALS OF THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS
AS BASED ON DESIRE FOR BROADENING SOCIAL EXPERIENCE THAT
FESTIVAL WOULD OFFER, AS WELL AS OPPORTUNITY TO MEET
BROAD CROSS SECTION OF YOUTH LEADERS FROM THIRD WORLD.
LABOR AND LIBERAL YOUTH HAVE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT REAL
PURPOSES OF FESTIVAL, AND EMBASSY WILL USE EVERY
APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY TO EMPHASIZE TO LEADERS OF THESE TWO
GROUPS, AS WELL AS TO LEADERS OF OTHER YOUTH GROUPS IN
NIU, THE TRUE NATURE OF THE FESTIVAL.
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